

Scales and Weighing



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Scene of large waste trucks being weighed on a disposal facility's scales.

This section will focus on scales and weighing requirements.

Scale and Weighing: Rural/Non-Rural Transfer Stations

- **Different scale requirements for transfer stations operating in rural area**
- **Rural cities and counties are defined in Public Resources Code 40183 and 40184 based on:
Population and
Waste disposal rates**

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There are different scale requirements for stations operating in rural versus non-rural areas.

Rural cities and rural counties are defined by law and are based on population and waste disposal rates. The list of rural cities and rural counties changes over time as population and/or disposal rates change.

Because there are different requirements for rural and non-rural landfills, we will list the requirements separately for each.

What is a Rural Transfer Station?

- Station is located in an area identified as rural
- For CIWMB assistance to determine if a facility is rural, contact CIWMB staff at WasteLine@ciwmb.ca.gov or (916) 341-6675



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Self hauler truck entering the scales at the disposal facility's gatehouse.

Transfer stations located in rural jurisdictions are considered rural facilities.

If you need assistance to determine if your facility is rural, please contact CIWMB staff at WasteLine@ciwmb.ca.gov or (916) 341-6675.

Rural Transfer Stations: Scale Requirements

Scales are required for transfer stations that:

- 1. Accepts more than 200 tons, or 800 cubic yards of garbage a day**
- AND**
- 2. Operate more than 52 days a year**

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Scales are required for your station if it is located in a rural city or county and accepts more than 200 tons, or more than 800 cu. yds. of garbage a day, based on an annual average, and if you operate more than 52 days a year.

Rural Stations: Weighing Requirements

- **Weigh every compacted load and every uncompact load of waste greater than 12 cubic yards**
Exception: Loads weighed at destination landfills/transformation facilities
- **Use volumetric conversion factors to estimate the weight of each load not weighed:**
Loads less than 12 cubic yards that are not weighed
Inoperable Scales

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For rural stations where scales are required, all compacted loads of waste must be weighed. Every uncompact load of waste greater than 12 cu. yds. must also be weighed.

A transfer station/MRF that sends loads to be weighed at destination landfills or transformation facilities would not be required to weigh loads at the transfer station/MRF. This is an automatic alternative to the minimum weighing requirements and does not require the transfer station/MRF to get prior approval from the CIWMB.

For loads that are not weighed, volumetric conversion factors must be used to estimate weight for DRS purposes. So for uncompact loads of 12 cubic yards or less that are not weighed, or if your scales are not operating, you must use volumetric conversion factors to estimate the weight for each load for DRS purposes.

Note: If other requirements exist for weighing such as per franchise contract agreement, they still apply.

Volumetric conversion factors used at a transfer station or MRF must follow certain rules. These rules are discussed in more detail later in this presentation.

What is a Non-Rural Transfer Station?

- **Station located in an area not identified as rural**
- **For CIWMB assistance to determine if a transfer station is non-rural, contact CIWMB staff at WasteLine@ciwmb.ca.gov or (916) 341-6675**



A line of several large waste disposal trucks waiting to enter the disposal facility.

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Transfer stations located in an area not identified as rural are considered non-rural stations. Most urban areas fall under the non-rural requirements.

If you need assistance to determine if a facility is non-rural, please contact CIWMB staff at WasteLine@ciwmb.ca.gov or (916) 341-6675.

Non-Rural Transfer Stations: Scale Requirements

Scales **are required** for stations that:

1. Accepts **over** 100 tons, or 400 cubic yards of garbage a day

AND

2. Operate **more than** 52 days a year



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Large waste disposal dump trucks, waiting in line to enter the disposal facility gatehouse.

Scales **are required** for your transfer station if it is located in a **non rural city or county** and:

1. Accepts over 100 tons a day, or an annual average volume of more than 400 cu. yds. of garbage a day

AND

2. Operates more than 52 days a year.

Non-Rural Stations: Weighing Requirements

- **Weigh every compacted load and every uncompact load of waste greater than 12 cubic yards**
Exception: Loads weighed at destination landfills/transformation facilities
- **Use volumetric conversion factors to estimate the weight of each load not weighed:**
Loads less than 12 cubic yards that are not weighed
Inoperable scales

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For non-rural stations where scales are required, all compacted loads of waste must be weighed. And every uncompact load of waste greater than 12 cu. yds. must also be weighed.

A transfer station/MRF that sends loads to be weighed at destination landfills or transformation facilities would not be required to weigh loads at the transfer station/MRF. This is an automatic alternative to the minimum weighing requirements and does not require the transfer station/MRF to get prior approval from the CIWMB.

For loads that are not weighed, volumetric conversion factors must be used to estimate weight for DRS purposes. So for uncompact loads of 12 cubic yards or less that are not weighed, or if your scales are not operating, you must use volumetric conversion factors to estimate the weight for each load.

Note: If other requirements exist for weighing such as per franchise contract agreement, they still apply.

Volume-to-Weight Conversion Factor Rules for Stations

- **Conversion factors are needed for all:
Vehicle/Trailer, and
Load types**



Self haulers entering the disposal facility scales to have their loads weighed.

- **Conversion factors must be based on average weights obtained during a minimum 7-day survey period conducted at least every 5 years**

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If your facility does not weigh uncompacted loads of 12 cu. yds. or less, or if your scales are inoperable, then you must estimate the weight of the loads using volumetric conversion factors.

Volume-to-weight conversion factors used at non-rural transfer stations must meet certain criteria:

1. Conversion factors must be calculated for each vehicle/trailer combination, and load type typically seen at the station.

There are special load types such as (C & D) material for which MSW conversion rates would not be appropriate.

2. Conversion factors must be based on the average of actual weights for the vehicle/trailer combinations, and load types collected during a seven-day minimum period. New conversion factors must be established at least once every five years.

Note: Many vehicles can transport different trailers with varying load capacities. Therefore, it is important to record accurate load capacity information by vehicle and trailer type combination when determining conversion factors.

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Self haulers and large waste disposal trucks waiting to enter the gatehouse at the disposal facility.

- **Conversion factors for each vehicle, trailer, and load type must be based on representative sampling**
- **Factors and methods used must be provided in an annual report of methods**
- **All documentation must be made available for CIWMB review (upon request)**

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3. Weight data for each vehicle, trailer, and load type must be based on statistically representative samples.
 - All volume-to-weight conversion factors and the methods used to determine the factors must be provided in your annual report of methods. More on the annual report of methods will be discussed later in this presentation.
 - Upon request, all supporting documentation must be made available for CIWMB review.
4. If the CIWMB determines that the volume conversion factors are not adequately supported, the CIWMB may require you to collect new weight data to establish new conversion factors.

Scale Exemptions and Alternative Weighing Requirements for Stations

- **Scale exemption for hardship**
- **Alternative weighing system**
- **Requests must include facility information and reasons for exemption or alternative system**

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You can request an exemption from scales or an alternative weighing system. A scale exemption may be considered if you can demonstrate that installing scales is a hardship. For instance, if your facility has no electric utilities at the site, or is located in an extremely remote area, you might want to submit an exemption request.

You may also request an alternative weighing system, such as using off-site scales. For instance, some fleets are now equipped with scales on their vehicles to weigh the waste.

Your request for an exemption or use of an alternative weighing system must include the reasons for the request and information on your facility and its operations, such as name and address of the facility, etc.

No exemption request is needed when a transfer station or MRF sends loads to be weighed at destination landfills or transformation facilities instead of weighing the incoming loads at the transfer station/MRF.

Scale Exemptions and Alternative Weighing Requirements

- **30-day notice to all applicable parties**
 - Haulers**
 - County/Regional Agency where facility is located**
 - Cities and counties**
 - Local Task Force**
- **Submit request to CIWMB for review**
- **CIWMB may withdraw exemption or alternative system if requirements are no longer met.**

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Before submitting an exemption or alternative weighing system request, you must send a 30-day notice of the request to the haulers that dispose of waste at your facility, the county or regional agency where your facility is located, the cities and counties that dispose of waste at your facility, and the Local Task Force on solid waste issues.

Once the request has been reviewed and commented on by interested parties, the request is ready to be submitted to the CIWMB's disposal reporting section. Your request must show that applicable parties were notified. You must also submit responses to comments received from interested parties.

Within 30 days, CIWMB will notify you that the request was received and whether it includes all necessary information. The CIWMB has 60 days to approve or deny a complete request for exemption or alternative weighing system.

CIWMB may also withdraw its approval if it determines that you no longer meet the requirements for exemption or alternative weighing system or if your special circumstances for which you were granted exemption no longer exist.